GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5375
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2001
EXPENDITURE OF VSP ON REPAIR OF COKE OVEN BATTERIES
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI;VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) had to incur an avoidable expenditure of Rs.102 crores towards repair of coke oven batteries;

(b) whether it is true that the batteries were commissioned in 1989, 1991 and 1992 respectively had a guaranteed life of 15 to 17 years;

(c) if so, the reasons for incurring such avoidable expenditure; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant incurred an expenditure of Rs.82.78 crores towards repair of Coke Oven Batteries.

(b) Yes, Sir. The coke oven batteries in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant were commissioned in 1989, 1991 and 1992. Coke Oven batteries of 7 meters height in Steel Plants have a normal life of 15-17 years. The three 7 meters high coke oven batteries of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant had no specific guarantee from the designers for a life of 15-17 years.

(c)&(d): The matter of premature break down of these coke oven batteries in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant was referred to CBI in April, 2001, which registered a preliminary inquiry. This inquiry is at an initial stage. The Government will take further appropriate action after completion of the inquiry.